

From: [Rauscher, Jon](#)
To: [Delgado, Eric](#)
Subject: RE: White House/West
Date: Thursday, April 18, 2013 11:08:26 AM

West Fertilizer, Inc, Explosion in West, Texas

Around midnight, CDT on April 17, EPA's Airborne Spectral Photometric Environmental Collection Technology (ASPECT) aircraft flew 21 runs over the incident site; data on the plume was available within 5 minutes. Readings were 6 to 10 part per million (ppm) by volume ammonia concentration within the plume, however, the plume dissipated rapidly due to high winds. Approximately ½ mile downwind, during the same runs, ASPECT did not detect ammonia.

People exposed to levels of ammonia above 30 ppm could experience notable discomfort or irritation. Ammonia is extremely pungent and inhaling ammonia can cause rapid onset of burning sensation in the eyes, nose and throat, but no lasting harm.

ASPECT is currently awaiting clearance to fly missions today. At the moment, the weather is poor. When they do fly today, they will be collecting photographic data as well as collecting additional data from the plume.

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